

various parts of the State, which was made possible by that law, has already located the scale in no less than twenty-two counties of the State, as follows: Alamance, Carteret, Catawba, Cleveland, Cumberland, Durnam, Franklin, Gaston, Guilford, Halifax, Haywood, Jackson, Lenoir, Mitchell, Moore, New Hanover, Pitt, Sampson, Scotland, Surry, Wake and Wilson. No section of the State is exempt, and in all of these counties the scale is, without doubt, slowly spreading from place to place. In places where we have been able to visit the orchards, and point out the extent of the infestation, and recommend remedies, some of the growers, at least, have learned that it can be controlled by persistent, careful and thorough work. Unfortunately, some growers seem to have the idea that they can absolutely exterminate the pest, whereas, in fact, such a thing is out of the question. If by treating a tree once or twice each year it may be kept in sufficiently good health to produce a satisfactory crop, nothing more need be expected, for this is all that we can ever do with any pest, though in this instance the cost is considerably greater. Moore County has been the greatest sufferer from this pest, and in the large peach orchards around Southern Pines, the owners have voluntarily dug up and burned many thousands of trees in their efforts to control the spread of the pest. On the other hand, many thousands have been condemned by the Entomologist, as provided for in the law, and, the owners being unwilling to treat, have been compelled to remove them. It is but truth to say that the expedient of compelling the removal of trees is left as the very last resort, only being employed in the most extreme and aggravated cases, and where neighboring orchardists demand the full enforcement of the law, with what seems to us to be overwhelmingly sufficient reason. Every possible opportunity is afforded owners to treat their trees. We have believed that it was the intention of the Legislature to leave liberal discretionary powers in this matter with the Commission for Controlling Crop Pests.

Inasmuch as all nurseries in the State must secure certificates of inspection each year in order to carry on their trade, the whole nursery industry of the State is absolutely dependent on our work from year to year. This has led some to think that it is our business to inquire into the manner and method of business of all such firms. Plainly, this is not the case, but when the certificate which we issue is put to an improper use, it becomes our right to interfere. The famous Amos Owen Cherry Tree Company is a case in point. Our certificate was granted to cover a legitimate trade, but when the nature of the business was changed, the parties continued the use of the certificate, and passed it from party to party as the management changed hands, without authority for so doing. When we became convinced that the business was not being conducted properly, and that our certificate was being misused, an investigation was made by the Entomologist, and the second day after his return, the concern was closed and the public was in possession of the facts. Further action against the parties was the work of the government, but the actual closing of the concern was the work of the Crop Pest Commission, through the Entomologist and the fact that this investigation and its results was accomplished at a cost to the State of less than twenty-five dollars is not the least among the arguments that the funds of the Crop Pest Commission are being used with proper and telling effect.